



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 1022**

January Session, 2019



**AN ACT CONCERNING MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the school year  
2 commencing July 1, 2020, and each school year thereafter, the Minority  
3 Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council, established pursuant to  
4 section 10-156bb of the general statutes, in consultation with the  
5 minority teacher recruitment task force, established pursuant to section  
6 10-156aa of the general statutes, shall develop and implement  
7 strategies and utilize existing resources to ensure that at least two  
8 hundred fifty new minority teachers and administrators, of which at  
9 least thirty per cent are men, are hired and employed by local and  
10 regional boards of education each year in the state. As used in this  
11 section, "minority" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-  
12 156bb of the general statutes.

13 Sec. 2. Section 10-146c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

15 (a) As used in this section:

16 (1) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of  
17 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or territories or  
18 possessions of the United States; and

19 (2) "Educator preparation program" means a program designed to  
20 qualify an individual for professional certification as an educator  
21 provided by institutions of higher education or other providers,  
22 including, but not limited to, an alternate route to certification  
23 program.

24 (b) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee,  
25 as agent for the state shall enter into reciprocity agreements concerning  
26 professional certification reciprocity with the chief education officials  
27 for each state. If the commissioner is unable to establish a reciprocity  
28 agreement with another state, the commissioner may establish or join  
29 an interstate agreement pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

30 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's  
31 designee, as agent for the state shall establish or join interstate  
32 agreements with other states to facilitate the certification of qualified  
33 educators from other states. Any such interstate agreement shall  
34 include provisions requiring candidates for certification to, at a  
35 minimum, (1) hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited  
36 college or university, (2) have fulfilled post-preparation assessments as  
37 approved by the commissioner, and (3) have successfully completed  
38 an approved educator preparation program. Notwithstanding the  
39 provisions of sections 10-145b and 10-145f, as amended by this act, the  
40 State Board of Education shall issue the appropriate professional  
41 certificate to any applicant, based on such applicant's qualifications,  
42 who satisfies the requirements of the appropriate interstate agreement.

43 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) If the commissioner is unable to establish or join a  
44 reciprocity agreement or an interstate agreement with another state,  
45 the commissioner may create and make available a recognition  
46 statement that specifies the states, assessments and educator  
47 preparation programs that the commissioner will recognize for  
48 purposes of issuing professional certification under sections 10-145b  
49 and 10-145f, as amended by this act.

50 (e) Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the

51 commissioner shall submit a progress report on the development and  
52 implementation of reciprocity agreements and interstate agreements  
53 and any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing  
54 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
55 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
56 4a.

57 Sec. 3. Section 10-145l of the general statutes is repealed and the  
58 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

59 On and after July 1, [2010] 2019, the State Board of Education shall  
60 allow an applicant for certification to teach in a subject shortage area  
61 pursuant to section 10-8b or a certified employee seeking to teach in  
62 such a subject shortage area to substitute achievement of [an excellent]  
63 a satisfactory score, as determined by the State Board of Education, on  
64 any appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area  
65 assessment for the subject area requirements for certification pursuant  
66 to section 10-145f.

67 Sec. 4. Section 8-265pp of the general statutes is repealed and the  
68 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

69 The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall develop and  
70 administer a program of mortgage assistance to certified teachers (1)  
71 employed by priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, (2)  
72 employed by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c,  
73 (3) employed by the Technical Education and Career System at a  
74 technical education and career school located in such priority or  
75 transitional school districts, [or] (4) who teach in a subject matter  
76 shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b, (5) who graduated from a  
77 public high school in an educational reform district, as defined in  
78 section 10-262u, or (6) who graduated from an historically black  
79 college or university or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms  
80 are defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as  
81 amended from time to time, and reauthorized by the Higher Education  
82 Opportunity Act of 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time.

83 Such assistance shall be available to eligible teachers for the purchase  
84 of a house as their principal residence, provided, in the case of a  
85 teacher employed by a priority or a transitional school district, or by  
86 the Technical Education and Career System at a technical education  
87 and career school located in a priority or transitional school district,  
88 the house is located in such district. In making mortgage assistance  
89 available under the program, the authority shall utilize down payment  
90 assistance or any other appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of  
91 any mortgage assistance shall allow the mortgagee to realize a  
92 reasonable portion of the equity gain upon sale of the mortgaged  
93 property.

94 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-183v of the general statutes is  
95 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
96 *1, 2019*):

97 (b) A teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may be  
98 reemployed for up to one full school year by a local board of  
99 education, the State Board of Education or by any constituent unit of  
100 the state system of higher education (1) in a position [(1)] designated  
101 by the Commissioner of Education as a subject shortage area for the  
102 school year in which the teacher is being employed, [or] (2) at a school  
103 located in a school district identified as a priority school district,  
104 pursuant to section 10-266p, for the school year in which the teacher is  
105 being employed, (3) if the teacher graduated from a public high school  
106 in an educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u, or (4) if  
107 the teacher graduated from an historically black college or university  
108 or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms are defined in the  
109 Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as amended from time to  
110 time, and reauthorized by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of  
111 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time. Notice of such  
112 reemployment shall be sent to the board by the employer and by the  
113 retired teacher at the time of hire and at the end of the assignment.  
114 Such reemployment may be extended for an additional school year,  
115 provided the local board of education (A) submits a written request for

116 approval to the Teachers' Retirement Board, (B) certifies that no  
117 qualified candidates are available prior to the reemployment of such  
118 teacher, and (C) indicates the type of assignment to be performed, the  
119 anticipated date of rehire and the expected duration of the assignment.

120 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is  
121 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
122 *1, 2019*):

123 (a) The State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper  
124 application, shall issue an initial educator certificate to any person who  
125 (1) holds a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree from an institution  
126 of higher education [accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher  
127 Education or Office of Higher Education or] that is regionally  
128 accredited or has received an equivalent accreditation, and (2) has  
129 completed (A) an educator preparation program approved by the State  
130 Board of Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in  
131 which the institution of higher education is located, or (B) an alternate  
132 route to certification program approved by the State Board of  
133 Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in which  
134 such alternate route to certification program is located, and satisfies  
135 the requirements for a temporary ninety-day certificate, pursuant to  
136 subsection (c) of this section, or a resident teacher certificate, pursuant  
137 to section 10-145m. In addition, on and after July 1, 2018, each  
138 applicant shall have completed a subject area major as defined by the  
139 State Board of Education, except (i) as provided in section 10-145l, as  
140 amended by this act, or (ii) where an applicant achieves a satisfactory  
141 evaluation on an appropriate State Board of Education approved  
142 subject area assessment [and] or has completed advanced coursework  
143 in a relevant subject area. Each such initial educator certificate shall be  
144 valid for three years, except as provided in subsection (c) of this  
145 section, and may be extended by the Commissioner of Education for  
146 an additional year for good cause upon the request of the  
147 superintendent in whose school district such person is employed or  
148 upon the request of the assessment team reviewing such person's

149 performance.

150 Sec. 7. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 10-145f of the general  
151 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
152 (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

153 (e) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person  
154 who holds a valid teaching certificate that is at least equivalent to an  
155 initial educator certificate, as determined by the State Board of  
156 Education, and such certificate is issued by a state other than  
157 Connecticut in the subject area or endorsement area for which such  
158 person is seeking certification in Connecticut shall not be required to  
159 successfully complete the competency examination and subject matter  
160 assessment pursuant to this section, if such person has either [(1)] (A)  
161 successfully completed at least three years of teaching experience or  
162 service in the endorsement area for which such person is seeking  
163 certification in Connecticut in the past ten years in a public school or a  
164 nonpublic school approved by the appropriate state board of  
165 education in such other state, or [(2)] (B) holds a master's degree or  
166 higher in the subject area for which such person is seeking certification  
167 in Connecticut.

168 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person who  
169 has held a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board of  
170 Education and such certificate has expired shall not be required to  
171 successfully complete the subject matter assessment in the  
172 endorsement area for which such person is seeking renewal or  
173 advancement of such certificate, pursuant to this section, if such  
174 person has either (A) successfully completed at least three years of  
175 teaching experience or service in a public school or a nonpublic school  
176 under a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board of  
177 Education or issued by a state other than Connecticut, in the past ten  
178 years in such endorsement area, or (B) holds a master's degree or  
179 higher in the subject area for which such person is seeking renewal or  
180 advancement of such certificate.

181 (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person  
 182 who has achieved a satisfactory evaluation on an equivalent  
 183 competency examination or subject area assessment required for  
 184 educator certification in another state shall not be required to achieve a  
 185 satisfactory evaluation on the competency examination or subject  
 186 matter assessment pursuant to this section, provided the State Board of  
 187 Education determines that the requirements for achieving a  
 188 satisfactory evaluation on such equivalent competency examination or  
 189 subject area assessment in another state are at least equivalent to the  
 190 requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education for achieving  
 191 a satisfactory evaluation on the competency examination or subject  
 192 matter assessment pursuant to this section.

193 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person who  
 194 has previously achieved a satisfactory evaluation on an appropriate  
 195 State Board of Education approved subject area assessment for a  
 196 teaching certificate that has expired shall not be required to take the  
 197 appropriate subject matter assessment currently approved by the State  
 198 Board of Education, provided the Commissioner of Education  
 199 determines that the requirements for achieving a satisfactory  
 200 evaluation on such previous subject area assessment are at least  
 201 equivalent to the requirements prescribed by the State Board of  
 202 Education for such current subject matter assessment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-146c
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145l
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	8-265pp
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-183v(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145b(a)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145f(e) and (f)

**ED**

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

**APP**

**APP**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*